Amendments to the Claims:

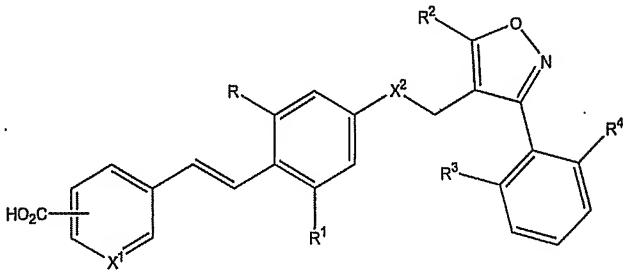
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Canceled.)

4. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing ~~or preventing~~ development of liver fibrosis in a mammalian subject with histopathological fibrotic changes or changes in disease markers consistent with fibrotic disease comprising administering to the ~~a~~ mammalian subject ~~in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of an FXR~~ a Farnesoid X Receptor agonist in an amount effective to reduce or slow the rate of fibrotic changes associated with liver fibrosis;

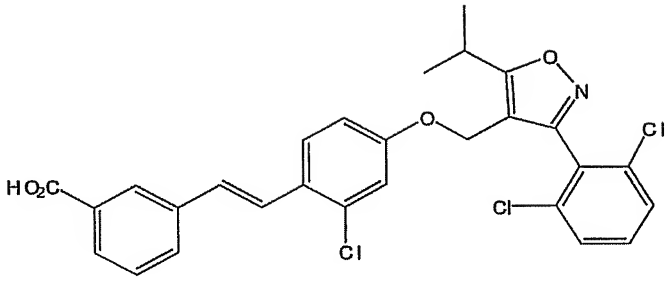
wherein the Farnesoid X Receptor agonist comprises a compound of Formula (I):



wherein X^1 is CH or N; X^2 is O or NH; R and R^1 are independently H, lower alkyl, halogen, or CF_3; R^2 is lower alkyl; R^3 and R^4 are independently H, lower alkyl, halogen, CF_3, OH, O-alkyl, or O-polyhaloalkyl.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the ~~FXR~~ Farnesoid X Receptor agonist comprises a compound of Formula (II):



7. (Canceled.)

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 where said ~~FXR~~ Farnesoid X Receptor agonist is not a naturally occurring bile acid.

9. (Canceled.)

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 where said ~~FXR~~ Farnesoid X Receptor agonist is a synthetic small molecule organic compound.

11. (Canceled.)

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10 where a naturally occurring bile acid is administered concurrently with said ~~FXR~~ Farnesoid X Receptor agonist.

13. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein a daily dosage level of the therapeutically effective amount of the Farnesoid X Receptor agonist is from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 100 mg/kg.

14. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein a daily dosage level of the therapeutically effective amount of the Farnesoid X Receptor agonist is from about 30 mg/kg to about 100 mg/kg.